

Summer Composition Internship

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Class of 2018

Project Overview

Upon arriving at UVA, I viewed my musical education as a way of accomplishing a singular goal – to become a concert pianist. While I still have aspirations of becoming a great pianist, I now have aspirations of becoming a composer. This desire stemmed from a classical improvisation class I took while studying abroad. In this class, I learned that I had a compositional voice and that I enjoyed creating new music. This summer I hope to grow and develop my compositional abilities. In order to do this, I have secured an internship with composer and orchestrator Chad Cannon in Pasadena, California. This internship will give me first hand experience in the film music and contemporary classical music world. I will further develop my compositional voice, and I will be working alongside one of the film industry's rising stars. As the internship will be unpaid, I am applying for a grant to offset the costs of housing for the summer.

Chad Cannon's work is in high demand in the film industry. In the past few months, Mr. Cannon has served as an orchestrator for *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* and composed music and orchestrated for *The Brits are Coming*, a film starring Uma Thurman and Tim Roth. For his recent work in the film music industry, the International Film Music Critics Association nominated Mr. Cannon as "Breakthrough Composer of the Year." In addition to his work in film music, Mr. Cannon is also an accomplished concert music composer. His piece for clarinet and string quartet, *Citizen 13660* has been performed multiple times throughout Asia, North America, and Europe. A link to a performance is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfntoAT5IZk>. Mr. Cannon's compositional aesthetic mirrors my own, and I am excited to learn from someone who shares similar musical tastes.

Interning with Mr. Cannon will surely make me a better and more marketable composer. While working for him, I will be responsible for preparing ProTools sessions. ProTools is a Digital Audio Workstation that is the standard among film composers. Knowledge of this program is vital for any aspiring composer. Additionally, I will be responsible for proofreading Mr. Cannon's work and helping him with publicity. In return for my work, Mr. Cannon will serve as a compositional mentor and teacher to me.

Living in the artistic hub of Los Angeles will give me the ability to connect with people who will be able to advance my career in the future. In addition to developing a professional relationship with Mr. Cannon, I will also be able to meet members of the film industry. As a member of the Society of Composers and Lyricists, I will have access to many seminars and networking events in LA, featuring leaders in the film and TV music industry. Mr. Cannon hopes to bring me to recording sessions at Warner Bros. and Fox where I'll have the opportunity to meet more members of the film industry.

One significant outcome of this internship and my collaboration with Mr. Cannon will be an original solo piano composition that I will perform at my

Performance Concentration Recital in the spring of 2018. While Mr. Cannon will help me in this project, I have also enlisted John Mayhood to help me complete the piece and prepare it for performance. Mr. Mayhood is an experienced and accomplished pianist who I have had the privilege of studying under for the past three years. He will add a pianist's perspective to the piece that will complement the composer's perspective of Mr. Cannon. I have chosen Mr. Mayhood as my faculty advisor for the project as he is the person most suitable to help me complete my piece and help me perform it.

Project Timeline

May 5 – July 15: Intern with Mr. Cannon in Pasadena, California

Fall 2017: Complete piece for performance concentration recital

Winter-Spring 2018: Rehearse and prepare piece for performance

Spring 2018: Perform piece at performance concentration recital

April 2018: Present outcomes for art scholar community

Budget

I am only requesting funding to cover the cost of housing. Housing in Southern California is quite expensive but I was able to find a relatively inexpensive room on Airbnb that is close to Mr. Cannon's studio. I am requesting \$3,714 to offset the full cost of housing. I will apply for an external grant to cover the cost of food and flights.

Participation in the Arts

I have been heavily involved with the arts while at UVA. I am a music major with a concentration in piano performance and have been heavily involved in the music department since my first year. I have played in piano quintets, accompanied both instrumentalists and vocalists, and performed solo works. I have performed in numerous masterclasses and concerts while at UVA. My theoretical and compositional coursework, such as Theory II and III, as well as Choral Arranging and Composition, will undoubtedly help me in my internship. Outside of the department I have written music for a film that appeared in the Adrenaline Film Project at the Virginia Film Festival and played in the pit orchestra for First Year Players. My work experiences have also enhanced my understanding and appreciation for the arts. My current job at the arts box office has given me insight into the world of arts administration. Last year, I worked as a research assistant for a professor in the English and African American Studies department who was studying Caribbean music.

I have been a member of the Arts Scholars since my second year. I was able to take CASS 1010 in the fall of my second year. Unfortunately, music class conflicts and studying abroad have prevented me from taking the seminar the past few semesters. Despite this, I have found a way to stay involved in the arts scholar community. I have attended social events and public exec meetings, and I have

submitted material to the social media chair to put on the group's Facebook and Instagram pages. I intend to take both seminars next year.